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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/01/2018

TAGS: MARR PREL GM

SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: HOST NATION NOTIFICATION FOR ACTIVATION OF 17TH AIR FORCE AS AIR COMPONENT TO USAFRICOM

REF: A. USEUCOM MSG DTG 241129Z MAR 08

1B. JOINT STAFF APPROVAL MEMO

1C. USDP APPROVAL MEMO

Classified By: EUR ACTING DAS GARY ROBBINS FOR REASONS 1.4 (A) AND (D)

11. (U) This is an action request for Embassy Berlin. Please see paragraph 2 for requested action and paragraph 8 for suggested talking points.

12. (C//REL GM) SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: Post is requested to conduct Host Nation Notification (HNN) at the appropriate level regarding USAFE force structure changes identified in Ref (A). Post is requested to report results of Host Nation Notification as soon as practicable to facilitate public announcement. When post's response is received, public announcement and PA guidance will be promulgated in coordination with OSD, State, Joint Staff and EUCOM. Background information on all of USAFRICOM's service components, to include the special operations component, is also provided in this cable.

13. (C// REL GM) USAFRICOM BACKGROUND: USAFRICOM's establishment is a Presidentially-directed DoD reorganization that reflects the growing importance of a holistic approach to African security affairs. USAFRICOM will be oriented primarily toward enhancing U.S. security cooperation with African partners, although it will have the capability to conduct military operations if directed to do so. USAFRICOM will support broader interagency, international and multinational efforts, where appropriate. To facilitate integration of USAFRICOM's activities with those of the U.S. Government and international partners, USAFRICOM is adopting a unique command structure that embeds employees from other U.S. Departments and Agencies into USAFRICOM.

14. (C//REL GM) DoD will be reorganizing U.S. forces in Europe in order to establish USAFRICOM service components. This cable includes points on establishing USAFRICOM's Air Force component command Headquarters. Although no decision has been made on a permanent AFRICOM headquarters location, USAFRICOM component HQs must be established on an accelerated timeline to provide support to USAFRICOM as it approaches its 30 September 2008 deadline for being at Full Operational Capability (FOC). In Germany, given our extensive discussions on AFRICOM prior to the establishment of the interim headquarters, as well as our long experience in working with Germany on U.S. military posture, we believe host nation consultations are not necessary at this time and will proceed directly with the standard process for host nation notification via the Overseas Force Structure Change process. This instruction cable addresses HNN for AFRICOM's Air Force component command only. HNN for the USMC component HQ will be addressed in a future instruction cable. In addition, the theater special operations element, which will be co-located with AFRICOM's interim HQ in Stuttgart, will also not be addressed in the HNN at this time) it is to be considered part of the separate discussion for establishing

USAFRICOM's permanent HQ.

¶ 15. (S//REL GM) PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS FOR BACKGROUND: DoD has developed estimates of the increase in the number of personnel that should occur as a result of the service component headquarters being established. These numbers are approximate and subject to change, but provide an order of magnitude. Numbers include military, civilian, and identified contractor requirements: 17th Air Force and 617th AOC (286 in Ramstein AFB, Germany); USMC component element (38 in Stuttgart, Germany); the theater special operations component (151). The USG intends to establish the Army and Navy components in Italy, with the following estimated personnel impact: Army Component (176 in Vicenza, Italy); Navy element (46 in Naples, Italy). When compared with overall personnel numbers at these existing facilities, these numbers do not constitute significant changes in personnel.

¶ 16. (U) OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS: There are no adverse operational implications of establishing these service component headquarters because they will consist primarily of staff, not assigned rotational forces.

¶ 17. (C//REL GM) LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: We do not believe that any supplementary agreements or modifications to existing agreements are required to establish USAFRICOM service component command headquarters in Germany.

¶ 18. (U) SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS: Post may draw on the points below, if necessary, to respond to German questions regarding the host nation notification of force structure changes identified in REF A.

-- (C//REL GM): We seek to establish USAFRICOM's service component Headquarters for the Air Force in Germany, utilizing forces already present in Germany and re-assigning them to this new service component. This Air Force component HQ would be designated as the 17th Air Force. This change would not require a large increase in the number of personnel (286 in Ramstein AFB), as personnel already in Europe will be re-assigned to form this component. We propose that the component HQ be based at the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

-- (C//REL GM) ONLY IF ASKED: The theater special operations HQ element will be co-located with USAFRICOM's interim HQ in Stuttgart, and is considered at this juncture as part of the USAFRICOM staff. This component would remain co-located with the USAFRICOM HQ even if it relocates to another permanent location.

¶ 19. (U) Department POC is PM/PPA Mike Smith 202-647-7714 or SmithML3@state.gov. OSD/ISA/Africa POC is Colonel Nick Vite, Commercial 703-571-9391; Joint Staff POC IS LtCol Gary Hutfles, Commercial 703-614-9751; EUCOM POC is LCDR David Morgan Commercial 49 711 680 8946.
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